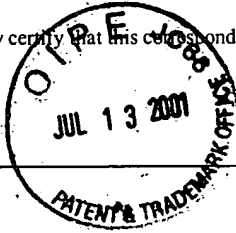


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CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on July 13, 2001.



Nancy DeRiggi
Nancy DeRiggi

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Takeshi KAKINUMA *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/095,365

Filing Date: June 10, 1998

For: SHEET SORTING APPARATUS

Examiner: Linda L. Gray

Group Art Unit: 1734

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RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 15

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to Paper No. 15 mailed June 19, 2001, applicants submit the following remarks:

REMARKS

Paper No. 15 states that the amendment filed on March 19, 2001, and the response filed May 11, 2001, are not fully responsive to the prior Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, applicants point out the following support for the amendments to claims 1 and 12.